

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Prior to this amendment, claims 1-7, 10-15, 44 and 46-59 were pending. In this amendment, claim 59 is amended, claim 58 is canceled, and no claims are added. Thus, after entry of this amendment, claims 1-7, 10-15, 44, 46-57, and 59 will be pending.

Examiner Interview

Applicants appreciate the interview with the Examiner on August 14, 2007, where the reference Yokouchi was discussed..

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the indicated allowability of claims 1-7 and 10-15.

Claim Objections

Claims 58 and 59 are objected to. Claim 58 has been canceled and claim 59 has been amended accordingly.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), Yokouchi

Claims 55-56, 58 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yokouchi et al., US Patent 4,796,211, hereinafter Yokouchi.

Claims 55-57, 59

Claim 55 is allowable as Yokouchi does not teach or suggest each and every element of claim 55. For example, claim 55 recites:

after loading the first magic value into the reload register, loading a value other than the second magic value into the reload register, which causes the watchdog timer circuit to generate a triggered signal.

Yokouchi describes the use of a watchdog timer for a CPU. *See Yokouchi*, col. 1 lines 36-54. "During operation, if the 1EH and OEIH data are successively written to the watchdog timer within 16ms (at 12 MHz), the watchdog timer resets and starts counting again from 0." *Id.*, col. 1 lines 42-45. "If the combination of the data to reset the watchdog timer is not written within the fixed time, the watch dog timer generates a carry signal," which resets the

CPU. *Id.*, col. 1 lines 48-51. Thus, the cause for a carry (triggered) signal is the expiration of the fixed time. In contrast, claim 55 recites that the cause of the triggered signal is "loading a value other than the second magic value or the third magic value into the reload register."

For at least the reasons stated above, Applicant submits that claim 55 and its dependent claims 56-57 and 59 are allowable over the cited references.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), Yokouchi and Van de Steeg in view of May

Claims 44, 46-50, and 53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yokouchi, in view of Van de Steeg (5,479,618) and May (6,414,368).

Applicants submit that independent claim 44 should be allowable for at least the same rationale as claim 55. Claims 46-54 depend from claim 44 and thus derive patentability at least therefrom.

Van de Steeg is cited as teaching an external source for configuration data. *See* Office Action, page 4. May is cited as teaching "operating a programmable logic integrated circuit wherein the programmable logic integrated circuit and another circuit [e.g., watchdog timer] are disposed on the same die." *Id.* Even assuming that Van de Steeg and May teach these limitations and that there is a motivation to combine, these teachings do not make up for the deficiencies in Yokouchi with respect to claim 44.

Other rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 52 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over May, Yokouchi and Steeg as applied to claims 48 above, and further in view of Muller, US Patent 6298360.

Claim 54 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over May, Yokouchi and Steeg as applied to claims 44 above, and further in view of Laiho et al., US Patent 6754830, hereinafter Laiho.

Claims 52 and 54, which are dependent on claim 44, are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 44. Furthermore, the cited teachings of Muller and Laiho do not make up for the deficiencies in Yokouchi with respect to claim 44.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,

/David B. Raczkowski/

David B. Raczkowski
Reg. No. 52,145

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 415-576-0200
Fax: 415-576-0300
Attachments
DBR:lrj
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